of the cases by prescribing a limit of maximum three adjournments of hearings by departmental adjudicating officers/ Tribunal.

(iv) A dedicated unit e.g. Tax Arrears Recovery Cell has been created to oversee, monitor and coordinate the disposal of appeal cases and realization of related revenue.

(v) Departmental adjudicating officers have been asked to undertake faster disposal of adjudication cases.

(d) In the Central Excise Act, 1944, provisions have been made that where it is possible to do so, Commissioner (Appeals) and Tribunal shall hear and decide every appeal within a period of six months and three years respectively, from the date of filing of appeal. There is no fresh proposal pending consideration at this stage.

Financial package to revamp co-operative sector question

2160. SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Rs. 15,000 crore financial package has been worked out to re-vamp the Co-operative sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the contribution proposed to be made by the State Governments and the Co-operative banks, in accordance with recommendations of the Vaidyanathan panel; and

(c) the details of steps taken to fine-tune the regulatory control exercised by the Registrar of Co-operatives so as to ensure the continued financial health of the Co-operatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) In order to revitalize the co-operative credit structure, the report of the Task Force under Prof. A Vaidyanathan with regard to short term cooperative credit structure has been accepted in principle for implementation in consultation with State Governments. An interactive session with State Governments on the report was held on 9th September, 2005. Further, another discussion was held

with a few States on September 29, 2005. Based on the deliberations, a revised package was drafted which envisages a financial package to be shared by Central Government, State Governments and Coopérative Credit Structure in the ratio of 68%, 28% and 4% respectively on an aggregate basis. Further, the package envisages that RBI will lay down the regulations/guidelines for prudential norms and financial matters while Registrar of Co-operative Societies (RCS) in the States will implement and monitor these regulations and guidelines. In all other matters of administration and regulation, RCS shall be the authority responsible for laying down regulations/guidelines.

Exemption of salaried employees from filing Income Tax Returns

†2161. SHRI BALVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scheme to exempt salaried employees from filing Income Tax returns;

(b) if so, by when the formal declaration would be made in this regard; and

(c) whether any financial loss is likely to be incurred to Government from this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

SSI Finance Centres

†2162. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up Small Scale Industries finance centres in industrial areas for extending financing facilities to micro industries by banks and Financial institutions;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.